

H.A

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,450

Examiner

Paul Dinh

Applicant(s)

CHEVALLIER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the divisional application filed on 2/19/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/19/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Paul Dinh

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification

Page 1; replace "This is a divisional application of application Ser. No. 10/199,727, titled LINE WIDTH CHECK IN LAYOUT DATABASE, filed Jul. 19, 2002 (pending)" with - - This is a divisional application of application Ser. No. 10/199,727, titled LINE WIDTH CHECK IN LAYOUT DATABASE, filed Jul. 19, 2002 (US patent 6,769,103) - -.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-18 are allowed because the prior art does not teach or suggest methods of identifying line width errors in an IC design in the manner as recited in the claims; the methods having combinations of steps including, among other things as recited in the claims, the following features:

(Claim 1)

creating a layout from the schematic, the layout containing the line width markers and a plurality of layout widths;

checking the layout line widths versus the schematic line widths for the plurality of line width marked lines;

creating a design representing the layout, the design having a plurality of design line widths; and

checking the design line widths versus the layout line widths for the plurality of line

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width marked lines.

(Claim 11)

creating a first layout from the schematic having a plurality of layout lines, the layout lines respectively corresponding to the schematic lines;

checking the first layout versus the schematic to determine where the layout lines are in the first layout;

creating a second layout including the plurality of layout lines and a width property for each of the layout lines; and

checking the width properties versus the line width parameters.

(Claim 14)

creating a layout from the schematic, the layout containing a plurality of layout lines, the layout lines respectively corresponding to the marked schematic lines, each layout line having a layout line width;

transferring the width parameter for each line width marker from the schematic to the layout when the schematic matches the layout;

creating a design representing the layout, the design containing a plurality of design lines, the design lines respectively corresponding to the layout lines, each design line having a design line width;

checking the design line widths versus the corresponding layout line widths; and

generating an error condition when a design line width is less than a corresponding layout line width.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paul Dinh

Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Dinh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.